



## Changes to Alternate Route/CE Educator Preparation Programming Requirements<sup>1</sup>

N.J.A.C. 6A: 9A

### Background

On November 4, 2015, the State Board of Education adopted updates to Certificate of Eligibility (CE) candidates. The goal of this effort is to support novice teachers who can drive student success in the classroom starting on day one, building upon requirements for entry into the teaching profession adopted by the State Board last year. *Please note that in response to the request of preparation program providers, the Department will now refer to what is commonly called “alternate route” as “CE educator preparation programs.”*

### Overview of Changes

The first chart below lists changes adopted in June 2014. The following charts outline key changes from the November 2015 regulatory package.

CE-EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM (EPP) ENTRY REQUIREMENTS		
Previous Requirements	Current Requirements Adopted June 2014	Effective Date
<b>Lower Minimum Entry GPA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.50 for students graduating before 9/1/04</li> <li>2.75 for students graduating on or after 9/1/04</li> </ul>	<b>Higher Minimum Entry GPA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.0 GPA for each individual candidate</li> <li>Exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Hold a GPA between 3.00 and 2.75 and exceed the passing score on the appropriate State test of subject matter by at least 10%</li> <li>✓ Programs may sponsor candidates with GPAs between 3.00 and 2.75 GPA as long as the candidate is employed when participating in the program. Sponsored candidates can make up no more than 10% of the provisional training program’s annual accepted candidates</li> <li>✓ For more information, see <a href="#">GPA Requirements for Teacher Preparation and Certification</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Candidates graduating after 9/1/2016
<b>Basic Skills Attainment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proficiency not assessed</li> </ul>	<b>Proficiency Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Candidates must pass a Commissioner-approved basic skills assessment of Math and Language Arts<sup>[1]</sup></li> <li>Requirement waived for candidates who score in the top third percentile on any of the following tests in the given year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ SAT</li> <li>✓ ACT</li> <li>✓ GRE</li> <li>✓ For more information, see <a href="#">Cut Scores for Basic Skills Requirement Exemption</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	9/1/2015

<sup>1</sup> This document provides an overview of requirements. For all official matters, such as issues brought before the Board of Examiners, concerned parties should rely on [regulatory requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9, 9A, 9B, and 9C](#) as the final authority.

[1] Currently Approved: Praxis Pre-Professional Skills Test (Praxis I), Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Praxis Core)



Please note that all of the following requirements are effective starting with school year 2017-18, with the exception of the terminology change and accreditation (as noted).

Previous Requirements	New Requirements
<i>Program Entry</i>	
<b>Not Cohort-Based</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programs free to admit individual candidates throughout the year</li> </ul>	<b>Cohort-Based</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programs must accept candidates in a cohort at a specific interval<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
<i>Pre-Service / Pre-Professional Experience:</i> Note: Typical progression = Certificate of Eligibility (CE) $\Rightarrow$ Provisional Certification $\Rightarrow$ Standard Certification	
<b>Shorter Duration with Limited Specificity Around Practical Experience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24 hours of pre-service required to obtain the CE</li> <li>During pre-service, candidates must demonstrate knowledge of basic pedagogical skills including but not limited to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classroom management</li> <li>Lesson planning</li> <li>Introduction to Common Core State Standards and Professional Standards for Teachers</li> <li>Assessment of pupil progress</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Longer Duration with Greater Specificity Around Practical Experience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 hours of pre-professional experience (instead of 24) required before provisional certification, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 hours of coursework</li> <li>20 hours of clinical experience, including at least 10 hours of planning and delivering instruction via individual or co-teaching model</li> <li>15 hours left to discretion of the program</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Responsibility Assigned to Individual</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual teacher candidates are responsible for obtaining 24 hours of pre-service to obtain a CE</li> <li>Candidates may select different programs for pre-service and in-service programming</li> </ul>	<b>Responsibility Shifts to Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programs responsible for providing 50 hours pre-professional programming to candidates prior to full-time professional teaching</li> <li>Program that provides in-service programming also responsible for pre-professional programming</li> </ul>
<i>In-Service</i>	
<b>Shorter Duration Over Unspecified Time Span</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specification about program length</li> <li>Minimum of 200 hours or equivalent credit hours for all teachers               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers with the elementary school (K-6 and N-8) CE must complete an additional 45 hours of study in teaching mathematics and 45 hours of study in teaching literacy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Longer Duration and Clarified Time Span</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 2 years in duration</li> <li>Minimum of 350 hours or equivalent credit hours               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All teachers, regardless of endorsement, must complete requirement above</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> A "cohort" is a group of candidates accepted to start an educator preparation program at or around the same time.



Previous Requirements	New Requirements
<i>Program Transfers</i>	
<b>No Rule About Transferring Programs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No requirements specified in regulations</li></ul>	<b>New Rule About Transferring Programs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Programs, at their discretion, may accept up to 100 hours of formal instruction from another approved program for transfers or candidates seeking dual certification</li></ul>
<i>Program Completion</i>	
<b>Program Completion Requirements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 200-290 hours required dependent on endorsement area</li></ul>	<b>Expanded Program Completion Requirements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Candidates must complete the minimum hours of instruction (350 or equivalent)</li><li>• Candidates must pass a Commissioner-approved performance assessment</li></ul>
<i>Program Accreditation</i>	
<b>No Accreditation Requirement</b>	<b>Accreditation Required by 2022</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Programs must achieve accreditation by 2022, allowing 2 years for restructuring and 5 years to become accredited</li></ul>

#### For More Information

- Visit the [educator preparation web page](#).
- View the [broadcast memo](#) explaining the rationale for the regulatory updates.
- To share questions or comments, please email [rpr@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:rpr@doe.state.nj.us).